

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A system for authenticating a device on a first home network connected to an external network via a router, the system comprising:

means for connecting/disconnecting the external network to/from the first home network; and

means for determining whether the device on the first home network requests to be registered on the first home network, to be transferred media content on the first home network, or to be issued a license on the first home network allowing the device to use the media content;

local environment management means for causing the means for connecting/disconnecting to disconnect the first home network from the external network[[,]] in response to a ~~request received from~~ determination that the device on the first home network , ~~during at least one of registering the device~~ requests to be registered on the first home network, to be transferred ~~transferring~~ media content on the first home network to the device, and ~~issuing~~ or to be issued a license on the first home network to the device allowing the device to use the media content.

2. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a home server on the first home network for acquiring the media content from the external network via the router, wherein the device requests the content from the home server.

3. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

two or more home servers on the first home network for providing the media content on the first home network;

wherein the local environment management means temporarily disconnects the first home network from the external network ~~during at least one of~~ registering in response to a determination that the device on the first home network requests to be registered as a member on the first home network, transferring the to be transferred media content on the first home network to the device, and issuing or to be issued a license ~~to the device~~ allowing the device to use the media content from the home servers.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 3, wherein:

the device is able to use the media content acquired from the home servers on the first home network and, upon connecting the device to a home server on a second home network outside the first home network, the device is unable to use the media content acquired from the home servers on the first home network.

6. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein:

after completion of local communication on the first home network, or after a predetermined amount of time from a start of the local communication has elapsed, the local environment management means reconnects the first home network to the external network.

7. (Currently amended) A method for authenticating a device on a first home network connected to an external network via a router, the method comprising:

receiving a request from the device on the first home network; and
determining whether the device on the first home network requests to be registered on the first home network, to be transferred media content on the first home network, or to be issued a license on the first home network allowing the device to use the media content; and

disconnecting the external network from the first home network[[,]] in response to a determination that the request, during at least one of registering the device on the first home network requests to be registered as a member on the first home network, transferring to be transferred media content on the first home network to the device, and issuing or to be issued a license on the first home network to the device allowing the device to use the media content.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:
acquiring, by a home server on the home network, the media content from the external network via the router, wherein the media content is requested by the device from the home server.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein:

the media content is transferred, and the license allowing the device to use the media content is issued, by two or more home servers installed on the home network, and

the home network is temporarily disconnected from the external network ~~during at least one of registering in response to a determination that the device on the first home network requests to be registered as a member on the home network, transferring the to be transferred media content on the first home network to the device, and issuing or to be issued a license on the first home network to the device~~ allowing the device to use the media content from the home servers.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein:

the device is able to use the media content acquired from the home servers on the first home network and, upon connection to a home server on a second home network outside the first home network, the device is unable to use the media content acquired from the home servers on the first home network.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:

reconnecting the first home network to the external network after completion of local communication on the first home network, or after a predetermined amount of time from a start of local communication has elapsed.

13. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus operating on a home network connected to an external network via a router, the communication apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request from a device on the home network; and

means for determining whether the device on the home network requests to be registered on the home network, to be transferred media content on the home network, or to be issued a license on the home network allowing the device to use the media content; and

local environment management means for requesting disconnection of the home network from the external network[[,]] in response to a determination that the request, during at least one of registering the device on the home network requests to be registered as a member on the home network, transferring to be transferred media content on the home network to the device, and issuing to the device or to be issued a license on the home network allowing the device to use the media content.

14. (Previously presented) The communication apparatus according to claim 13, wherein:

the communication apparatus is a home server for providing the media content on the home network.

15. (Previously Presented) The communication apparatus according to claim 14, wherein:

the local environment management means requests reconnection of the home network to the external network after completion of local communication with the device.

16. (Currently amended) A communication apparatus interconnecting a home network and an external network, the communication apparatus comprising:

means for connecting/disconnecting the external network to/from the home network; and

means for determining whether a device on the home network requests to be registered on the home network, to be transferred media content on the home network, or to be issued a license on the home network allowing the device to use the media content; and

control means for causing the means for connecting/disconnecting to disconnect the home network from the external network[[,]] in response to a determination that the request received from a device on the home network requests to be registered on the home network, during at least one of registering the device as a member on the home network, transferring to be transferred media content on the home network to the device, and issuing or to be issued a license to the device allowing the device to use the media content.

17. (Previously Presented) The communication apparatus according to claim 16, wherein:

the control means disconnects the home network from the external network in response to a disconnection request from a home server on the home network that provides the content on the home network.

18. (Previously presented) The communication apparatus according to claim 16, wherein:

the control means causes the means for connecting/disconnecting to reconnect the home network to the external network in response to a reconnection request from a home server on the home network that provides the media content on the home network.

19. (Previously presented) The communication apparatus according to claim 16, wherein:

the control means causes the means for connecting/disconnecting to reconnect the home network to the external network at predetermined time after disconnecting the home network from the external network in response to a disconnection request from a home server on the home network that provides the media content on the home network.

20. (Previously Presented) The communication apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:

means for communicating with the external network while the home network is disconnected from the external network; and

means for confirming the disconnection of the home network from the external network by accessing an external server on the external network during the disconnection.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program which, when executed by a communication apparatus operating on a home network connected to an external network via a router, causes the apparatus to execute a method for authenticating a device on the home network, the method comprising:

receiving a request from the device on the home network; and
determining whether the device on the home network requests to be registered on the home network, to be transferred media content on the home network, or to be issued a license on the home network allowing the device to use the media content; and

temporarily disconnecting the external network from the home network[[.]] in response to a determination that the request, during at least one of registering the device on the home network requests to be registered as a member on the home network, transferring to be transferred media content on the home network to the device, and issuing or to be issued a license on the home network to the device allowing the device to use the media content.